

Title	Homeopathy for Eczema, Psoriasis, and Seborrheic Dermatitis
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Aim

To assess the effectiveness, safety and cost/ cost-effectiveness of homeopathy for eczema, psoriasis, and seborrheic dermatitis.

Conclusions and results

A total of 66 titles were identified through the Ovid interface and PubMed. Seven relevant articles were included in this review: one systematic review, two randomised controlled trials, one non-randomised interventional study, two pre and post intervention studies and one case report. However, there are several limitations whereby some of the included studies have small sample size. The homeopathic and conventional treatments in some studies were not specified.

a. Effectiveness

• Eczema:

There was limited fair level of retrievable evidence to suggest that there was no significant difference between homeopathic therapy and conventional therapy. However, one pre and post intervention study showed improvement in eczema with Reliéva, a topical homeopathic therapy, when compared with before treatment.

• Psoriasis:

There was very limited fair level of retrievable evidence that showed homeopathic treatment was effective in treating and improving the quality of life of psoriasis patients.

• Seborrheic dermatitis:

There was very limited fair level of retrievable evidence to suggest that a low-dose oral homeopathic formulation improved seborrheic dermatitis (one study).

b. Safety

There was no significant difference in reported adverse events of homeopathy for eczema, psoriasis, and seborrhea compared to conventional or placebo treatments. However, there was a case report of a serious complication of childhood bullous pemphigoid with a life-threatening course in a baby who was receiving homeopathic drugs for atopic dermatitis.

c. Cost/ Cost-effectiveness

There was no cost-effectiveness analysis retrieved. One cost –analysis in a non-randomised interventional study of the effectiveness of homeopathic versus conventional therapy in usual care of atopic eczema in children showed that the total costs were significantly higher in the homeopathic group as compared to conventional group in which the respective physician's contacts was one of the main cost drivers. The cost of homeopathic treatment per session in Malaysia is about RM50.

Recommendations (if any)

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Methods

Electronic databases were searched through the Ovid interface: Ovid MEDLINE® In-process and other Non-indexed citations and Ovid MEDLINE® 1946 to present, EBM Reviews - Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials – February 2016, EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews - 2005 to April 7 2016, EBM Reviews – Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects – 1st Quarter 2016, EBM Reviews - Health Technology Assessment – 1st Quarter 2016, EBM Reviews – NHS Economic Evaluation Database 1st Quarter 2016, Embase 1988 to 2016 week 15. Searches were also run in PubMed. Google was used to search for additional web-based materials and information. Additional articles were identified from reviewing the references of retrieved articles.

Further research/reviews required

Homeopathy is not recommended for the treatment of eczema, psoriasis, and seborrheic dermatitis until more high quality evidence is available.

Written by

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